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**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2006 7:07 AM  
**To:** MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov  
**Subject:** MLPAComments: Prohibit All Fishing in Reserve Areas

Please resist calls for exceptions to a strict "no take" policy in reserve areas. History shows that exceptions will gradually erode protection, as commercial pressure builds to exploit what will become, by design, the richest ocean areas. As Jarad Diamond points out in his recent book "Collapse", someone cut down the last trees on Easter Island. He must have known it was a bad thing to do, but needed the wood. Fishermen will argue that they need to take "some fish", but the result will be disastrous. Yet, these nurseries and conservation areas are ironically the most critical to the continuance of a health fishing economy. Even sport fishing and "catch and release" should be forbidden in what should be a strict conservation area.

The fishing community and industry has responded to the decline in wild populations with artificial stocking programs and better technology to catch the remaining fish. The result has been accelerating declines of wild stock, and increasing ecological fragility. It is time to take steps to reverse this process, and the conservation areas are the first step. Let's make it a bold one. The fishing community will thank us, when the protected populations rebound and recolonize areas outside the reserve, to their benefit.

Respectfully yours,  
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